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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,486	11/09/2001	Ramesh Subramanian	GSH 08-892801	9780

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EXAMINER
BONSHOCK, DENNIS G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/039,486	SUBRAMANIAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Dennis G. Bonshock	2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 November 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-8,11 and 14-31* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *31* is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) *1-8,11, 14-24, and 26-30* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *25* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

Final Rejection

Response to Amendment

1.   It is hereby acknowledged that the following papers have been received and

placed on record in the file: Amendment as received on 11-01-2004.

2.   Claims 1-31 have been examined.

Status of Claims:

3.   Claims 1-8, 11, 14-24, and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being

anticipated by Stucka et al., Patent #5,596,702, hereinafter Stucka.

4.   Claim 25 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but

would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the

base claim and any intervening claims.

5.   Claim 31 is allowed.

6.   Claim 9, 10, 12, and 13 have been canceled by the applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2.   Claims 1-8,11, 14-24, and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being

anticipated by Stucka et al., Patent #5,596,702, hereinafter Stucka.

3.   With regard to claim 1, which teaches a user interface framework management

system for managing the user interface of a software application, the user interface

framework management comprising: a merged application user interface for receiving a software application user interface element of the software application and a component user interface element of a component to be included with the software application, Stucka teaches, in column 7, lines 14-26 and 46-62, in column 8, lines 37-40, and in figure 2, a merged interface comprising software application interface elements and component interface elements. With regard to claim 1, further teaching a unification unit for merging the component user interface element with the software user interface element into the merged application user interface, and identification unit for associating the component with the component user interface element in the merged application user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines 45-65, the User Interface Server (UIS) accepting events from the user and the UIS responding to commands by attaching and deleting portions of the user interfaces, and further teaches, in column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 13, the association of a particular functionality with a user interface component.

4.   With regard to claims 2 and 6, which teach the merged application user interface placeholder receiving a plurality of software application user interface elements, Stucka teaches, in column 7, lines 46-62 and in figure 2, the system comprising a plurality of application user interfaces.

5.   With regard to claims 3 and 7, which teach the merged application user interface placeholder receiving a plurality of component user interface elements, Stucka teaches, in column 7, lines 14-20, the system comprising a plurality of user interface components.

6.   With regard to claim 4, which teach the identification unit disassociating the

component from the component user interface element in the merged application user

interface, Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines 36-42, the removal of no longer needed

interface element by either deleting the sub-hierarchy from the working memory or

modifying the working memory area so as that the sub-hierarchy is no longer displayed.

7.   With regard to claim 5, which teaches a method of managing a user interface

framework of a software application when installing a component in a software

application, the method comprising steps of: a merged application user interface for

receiving a software application user interface element of the software application and a

component user interface element of a component to be included with the software

application, Stucka teaches, in column 7, lines 14-26 and 46-62, in column 8, lines 37-

40, and in figure 2, a merged interface comprising software application interface

elements and component interface elements. With regard to claim 5, further teaching

merging the component user interface element with the software user interface element

into the merged application user interface, and associating the component with the

component user interface element in the merged application user interface, Stucka

teaches, in column 10, lines 45-65, the User Interface Server (UIS) accepting events

from the user and the UIS responding to commands by attaching and deleting portions

of the user interfaces, and further teaches, in column 6, line 66 through column 7, line

13, the association of a particular functionality with a user interface component.

8.   With regard to claim 8, which teaches disassociating the component from the

component user interface element in the merged application user interface, Stucka

teaches, in column 10, lines 36-42, the removal of no longer needed interface element

by either deleting the sub-hierarchy from the working memory or modifying the working

memory area so as that the sub-hierarchy is no longer displayed.

9.   With regard to claim 11, which teaches re-associating the component from the

component user interface element in the merged application user interface, Stucka

teaches, in column 6, line 65 through column 7, line 13, column 11, lines 30-40, column

14, lines 36-43, and figures 6a and 6i, a cycle which shows the possibility for element to

be disassociated from the interface and then re-associated again, Stucka further

teaches, in column 10, lines 23-43, allowing components to be hidden or deleted and

allowing the removed to be redisplayed or reloaded.

10.   With regard to claim 14, which teaches a computer data signal embodied in a

carrier wave and representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by a

processor, cause the processor to perform a method for managing the user interface

framework of a software application when installing a component in a software

application, the method comprising steps of: receiving a software application user

interface element of the software application and a component user interface element of

a component in a merge application interface, Stucka teaches, in column 7, lines 14-26

and 46-62, in column 8, lines 37-40, and in figure 2, a merged interface comprising

software application interface elements and component interface elements. With regard

to claim 14, further teaching merging the component user interface element with the

software user interface element into the merged application user interface, and

associating the component with the component user interface element in the merged

application user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines 45-65, the User Interface

Server (UIS) accepting events from the user and the UIS responding to commands by

attaching and deleting portions of the user interfaces, and further teaches, in column 6,

line 66 through column 7, line 13, the association of a particular functionality with a user

interface component.

11.   With regard to claim 15, which teaches a computer-readable media for storing

instructions or statements form use in the execution in a computer of a method for

managing the user interface framework of a software application when installing a

component in a software application, the method comprising steps of: receiving a

software application user interface element of the software application and a component

user interface element of a component in a merge application interface, Stucka teaches,

in column 7, lines 14-26 and 46-62, in column 8, lines 37-40, and in figure 2, a merged

interface comprising software application interface elements and component interface

elements. With regard to claim 15, further teaching merging the component user

interface element with the software user interface element into the merged application

user interface, and associating the component with the component user interface

element in the merged application user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines

45-65, the User Interface Server (UIS) accepting events from the user and the UIS

responding to commands by attaching and deleting portions of the user interfaces, and

further teaches, in column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 13, the association of a

particular functionality with a user interface component.

12.   With regard to claim 16, which teaches a computer program product for user in

the execution in a computer form creating a user interface framework management

system for managing the user interface of a software application, the user interface

framework management comprising: a merged application user interface for receiving a

software application user interface element of the software application and a component

user interface element of a component to be included with the software application,

Stucka teaches, in column 7, lines 14-26 and 46-62, in column 8, lines 37-40, and in

figure 2, a merged interface comprising software application interface elements and

component interface elements. With regard to claim 16, further teaching a unification

unit for merging the component user interface element with the software user interface

element into the merged application user interface, and identification unit for associating

the component with the component user interface element in the merged application

user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines 45-65, the User Interface Server

(UIS) accepting events from the user and the UIS responding to commands by.

attaching and deleting portions of the user interfaces, and further teaches, in column 6,

line 66 through column 7, line 13, the association of a particular functionality with a user

interface component.

13.   With regard to claim 17, which teaches the component being accessible form a

plurality of user machines, Stucka teaches, in column 18, lines 47-49 and in column 20,

lines 13-32, multiple user on a server from which users access a data store storing components.

14.   With regard to claim 18, which teaches a plurality of components being customized by a plurality of users, the components and their customizations accessible by users upon loading of the component into the merged application user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 5, lines 19-26 and column 18, lines 47-49, sharing of interfaces from the shared object store, in a system in which multiple users share a server, and in column 2, lines 31-48, a customization of an element added to an application modifying all applications that contain that element.

15.   With regard to claim 19, which teaches the customized component being hidden from user machines that do not have the component loaded in the merged application user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines 24-42, a user interface component being hidden when not loaded.

16.   With regard to claim 20, which teaches the component user interface elements being customizable in the merged application user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 2, lines 43-48, the ability to customize an element added to an application.

17.   With regard to claim 21, which teaches the component being dynamically loadable into the merged application user interface system, Stucka teaches, in column 1, lines 15-21 and in column 5, lines 6-7, dynamically loading the components into the application user interface.

18.   With regard to claim 22, which teaches the user interface framework management system maintaining customizations to components associated and

disassociated from the merged application user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines 23-43, allowing customization to be hidden or deleted and allowing the hidden to be redisplayed or reloaded. Stucka further teaches, in column 5, lines 19-26 and column 18, lines 47-49, sharing of interfaces from the shared object store, in a system in which multiple users share a server, and in column 2, lines 31-48, a customization of an element added to an application modifying all applications that contain that element.

19.   With regard to claim 23, which teaches merging begin performed dynamically, Stucka teaches, in column 1, lines 15-21 and in column 4, lines 64-65, dynamic sharing of portions of user interfaces.

20.   With regard to claim 24, which teaches allowing a plurality of users to access the merged application user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 18, lines 47-49 and in column 20, lines 13-32, multiple user on a server from which users access a data store storing components.

21.   With regard to claim 26, which teaches maintaining customizations to components merged in the merged application user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 2, lines 29 through 65, customization of the components changing it in the associated merged application and in all others sharing that component.

22.   With regard to claim 27, which teaches maintaining customization to disassociated components, Stucka teaches, in column 2, lines 29 through 65, customization of the components changing it in the associated merged application and in all others sharing that component, even if disassociated as in column 10, lines 36-42.

23.   With regard to claim 28, which teaches the step of disassociating including the steps of: traversing merged application user interface elements and hiding merged application user interface elements owned by the component, Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines 23-43, traversing the merged user interface elements and the ability to hide elements of a (print) component.

24.   With regard to claim 29, which teaches the steps of: traversing hidden component user interface elements, and applying maintained customizations to the re-associated component user interface element, Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines 23-43, the hidden user interface (print) component being available for display upon request.

25.   With regard to claim 30, which teaches a user interface framework management system for managing the user interface of a software application, the user interface framework management comprising: a merged application user interface for receiving a software application user interface element of the software application and a tool user interface element of a tool to be included with the software application, Stucka teaches, in column 7, lines 14-26 and 46-62, in column 8, lines 37-40, and in figure 2, a merged interface comprising software application interface elements and component interface elements, and further teaches, in column 6, lines 44-48, user interface compoents being tools (pushbuttons, menus, and text labels). With regard to claim 30, further teaching a unification unit for merging the component user interface element with the software user interface element into the merged application user interface, and identification unit for associating the component with the component user interface element in the merged application user interface, Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines 45-65, the User Interface

Server (UIS) accepting events from the user and the UIS responding to commands by
attaching and deleting portions of the user interfaces, and further teaches, in column 6,
line 66 through column 7, line 13, the association of a particular functionality with a user
interface component. With regard to claim 30, further teaching the user interface
framework management system maintaining customizations to components associated
and disassociated from the merged application user interface, Stucka teaches, in
column 10, lines 23-43, allowing customization to be hidden or deleted and allowing the
hidden to be redisplayed or reloaded. Stucka further teaches, in column 5, lines 19-26
and column 18, lines 47-49, sharing of interfaces from the shared object store, in a
system in which multiple users share a server, and in column 2, lines 31-48, a
customization of an element added to an application modifying all applications that
contain that element.

Allowable Subject Matter

26.   Claim 25 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but
would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the
base claim and any intervening claims.

27.   Claim 31 is allowed.

28.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Stucka
teaches a system that combines an application user interface with additional elements
(components/tools), and allows for access of the object store over a network, providing
access to objects that are being used by other applications (shared), but doesn't teach a
storing a an association between components and users.

29.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

30.   The arguments filed on 11-01-2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Reasons set forth below.

31.   The applicants' argue that Stucka does not discuss the merging of application user interface elements with component user interface elements.

32.   In response, the examiner respectfully submits that Stucka teaches, in column 10, lines 23-43, an application that can dynamically specify user interface components to add to its own user interface, these components coming from a server upon request.

33.   The applicants' argue that the user of a callback function is not an association of a component user interface element with a component.

34.   In response, the examiner respectfully submits that Stucka teaches, specifically in column 6, line 65 through column 7, line 2 and in column 7, lines 10-14, the association between a user interface component and its associated functionality, where the application functions of the callbacks are stored with the user interface components in the object store.

Conclusion

35.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

36.   A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

37.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Dennis G. Bonshock whose telephone number is (571)

272-4047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 4:00

p.m.

38.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

39.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

2-9-05
dgb

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